

Bell companies should have to accommodate other ISPs that wish to purchase access from them. Without this there will be no competition and consumers and innovation will suffer. ISPs such as Speakeasy, the one I use, would no longer be able to do business. I would be left only the choice of using Verizon, which offers fewer services, has a reputation for extremely bad service, and is much slower to offer new services and adapt to new uses of broadband. This would be a great disservice to consumers and progress. Other forms of broadband, such as cable, do not represent acceptable competition, because they have different coverage areas, costs, and technical specifications.

This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.